

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-104 (canceled)

105. (new) A process for producing a colored synthetic fiber composition, with improved color strength and dimensional stability, the process comprising:

- (1) melt blending:
 - a) at least one fiber-forming polyamide,
 - b) at least one thermoplastic polyester, said at least one thermoplastic polyester being present at a ratio of less than 2:1 by weight with respect to said at least one fiber-forming polyamide and forming a dispersed, non-continuous, minor phase in a matrix of said at least one fiber-forming polyamide,
 - c) a colorant system comprising at least one colorant selected from the group consisting of inorganic pigments, organic pigments, and mixtures of inorganic and organic pigments;
 - d) at least one polymeric compatibilising additive;
- (2) forming said melt blend into filaments; and
- (3) drawing said filaments into fibers.

106. (new) A process according to claim 105 wherein said at least one polymeric compatibiliser additive is a metal sulphonate polyester.

107. (new) A process according to claim 105 wherein said at least one polymeric compatibiliser additive is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal salts of poly(ethylene terephthalate-co-sulphoisophthalate) and poly(butylene terephthalate-co-sulphoisophthalate), and blends and mixtures thereof.

108. (new) A process according to claim 106 wherein said metal sulphonate copolymer is present at between about 1 weight % and about 25 weight % of the melt blend.

109. (new) A process according to claim 106 wherein said metal sulphonate polyester is added in an amount such that the melt blend has between about 300 and about 3500 ppm sulphur.

110. (new) A process according to claim 105, wherein said colorant system employed in the step of melt blending includes at least one carrier resin for said colorant.

111. (new) A process according to claim 110 wherein the at least one carrier resin is selected from the group consisting of polyamides, polyesters, sulphonated polyesters, and copolymers, blends and mixtures thereof.

112. (new) A process according to claim 105, comprising the further step of texturing said fibers subsequent to drawing said filaments into fibers.

113. (new) A process according to claim 105, wherein said at least one fiber-forming polyamide is selected from the group consisting of polyamide 6, polyamide 11, polyamide 12, polyamide 6,6, polyamide 6,10, polyamide 6,12, and copolymers, blends and mixtures thereof.

114. (new) A process according to claim 105, wherein said at least one fiber-forming polyamide is selected from the group consisting of polyamide 6 and polyamide 6,6.

115. (new) A process according to claim 105, wherein said at least one thermoplastic polyester is selected from the group consisting of polyalkylene terephthalates, polyalkylene succinates, polyalkylene adipates, polyhydroxyacids, and copolymers, blends or mixtures thereof.

116. (new) A process according to claim 105, wherein said at least one thermoplastic polyester is selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene terephthalate),

poly(propylene terephthalate), poly(butylene terephthalate), and copolymers, blends or mixtures thereof.

117. (new) A process according to claim 105, wherein said at least one thermoplastic polyester is present at between about 15 weight % and about 35 weight % with respect to the total weight of the composition.

118. (new) A process according to claim 105 wherein said at least one colorant is selected from the group consisting of metal oxides, mixed metal oxides, metal sulphides, zinc ferrites, sodium alumino sulpho-silicate pigments, carbon blacks, phthalocyanines, quinacridones, nickel azo compounds, mono azo colorants, anthraquinones and perylenes.

119. (new) A process according to claim 105 wherein said at least one colorant is selected from the group consisting of: carbon black, titanium dioxide, zinc sulphide, zinc oxide, Ultramarine Blue, cobalt aluminates, iron oxides, Pigment Blue 15, Pigment Blue 60, Pigment Brown 24, Pigment Red 122, Pigment Red 147, Pigment Red 149, Pigment Red 177, Pigment Red 178, Pigment Red 179, Pigment Red 202, Pigment Red 272, Pigment Violet 19, Pigment Violet 29, Pigment Green 7, Pigment Green 36, Pigment Yellow 119, Pigment Yellow 147 and Pigment Yellow 150.

120. (new) A process according to claim 105 wherein said at least one colorant is present at between about 0.1 weight % and about 8 weight % of the composition.

121. (new) A process according to claim 105 including the further step of adding at least one adjuvant selected from the group consisting of an antioxidant, stabiliser, processing aid, antimicrobial, flame-retardant, antiozonant, soilproofing agent, stainproofing agent, antistatic additive, lubricant, melt viscosity enhancer, or mixtures thereof.

122. (new) A process according to claim 105 wherein a draw ratio in said drawing step is from 1.05 to 7.00.

123. (new) A process according to claim 105 wherein a draw ratio in said drawing step is from 1.10 to 6.00.

124. (new) A process according to claim 105 wherein a draw ratio in said drawing step is from 1.05 to 7.00.

125. (new) A process according to claim 105 wherein a draw ratio in said drawing step is from 1.10 to 6.00.

126. (new) A fiber made from the process of claim 105.

127. (new) A fiber made from the process of claim 106.

128. (new) A fiber made from the process of claim 105 wherein said fiber has a cross-section selected from the group consisting of round, delta and trilobal.

129. (new) A fiber made from the process of claim 106 wherein said fiber has a cross-section selected from the group consisting of round, delta, and trilobal.

130. (new) A woven, knitted or pile textile article made from the fiber of claim 126.

131. (new) A woven, knitted or pile textile article made from the fiber of claim 127.

132. (new) A carpet or floorcovering made from the fiber of claim 126.

133. (new) A carpet or floorcovering made from the fiber of claim 127.